United Nations E/CN.5/2013/L.3

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
13 February 2013

Original: English

Commission for Social Development

Fifty-first session
6-15 February 2013
Agenda item 3 (b)
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

Fiji:*, draft resolution**

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 47/237 of 20 September 1993, 50/142 of 21 December 1995, 52/81 of 12 December 1997, 54/124 of 17 December 1999, 56/113 of 19 December 2001, 57/164 of 18 December 2002, 58/15 of 3 December 2003, 59/111 of 6 December 2004, 59/147 of 20 December 2004, 60/133 of 16 December 2005, 62/129 of 18 December 2007, 64/133 of 18 December 2009, 66/126 of 19 December 2011 and 67/142 of 20 December 2012 concerning the proclamation, preparations for, and observance of the International Year of the Family and its tenth and twentieth anniversaries,

Recognizing that the preparation for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family provide a useful opportunity for drawing further attention to the objectives of the Year for increasing cooperation at all levels on family issues and for undertaking concerted actions to strengthen family-centred policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Please recycle

Recognizing also that the follow-up to the International Year of the Family is an integral part of the agenda and of the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development,

Noting the active role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation in family-related issues, particularly in the areas of research and information, including the compilation, analysis and dissemination of data,

Noting also the importance of designing, implementing and monitoring family-oriented policies, especially in the areas of poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, work-family balance, social integration and intergenerational solidarity,

Recognizing that the family, as the natural and fundamental group unit of society, has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

Stressing the importance of creating a conducive environment to strengthen and support all families, recognizing that equality between women and men and respect for all of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all family members are essential to family well-being and to society at large, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle of shared parental responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child,

Recognizing that the overall objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes continue to guide national and international efforts to improve family well-being worldwide,

Emphasizing that it is necessary to increase coordination of the activities of the United Nations system on family-related issues in order to contribute fully to the effective implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up processes,

Convinced that civil society, including research and academic institutions, has a pivotal role in advocacy, promotion, research and policymaking in respect of family policy development and capacity-building,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014[1] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Urges* Member States to view 2014 as a target year by which concrete efforts will be taken to improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, strategies and programmes;

3. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue reviewing the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family as part of its agenda and of its multi-year programme of work until 2014 and to hold a panel discussion in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Year at its fifty-second session;

[1] A/68/61-E/2013/3.

4. *Also requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to apply the following themes to guide the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family: (a) poverty eradication: confronting family poverty and social exclusion; (b) full employment and decent work for all: ensuring work-family balance; (c) social integration: advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity;

5. *Invites* Member States to undertake activities in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at the national level;

6. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen or, if necessary, establish relevant national agencies or governmental bodies responsible for the implementation and monitoring of family policies and to research the impact of social policies on families;

7. *Also encourages* Member States to continue their efforts to develop appropriate policies to address family poverty, social exclusion, work-family balance and intergenerational solidarity and to share good practices in those areas;

8. *Further encourages* Member States to adopt effective means to reduce family poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty through family-centred benefits and social protection measures, such as old-age pensions, cash transfers, housing assistance, child benefits and tax breaks;

9. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen flexible provisions for parental leave, extend flexible working arrangements for employees with family responsibilities, including flexible part-time job opportunities and arrangements, promote gender equality and empowerment of women and enhance paternal involvement and support a wide range of quality childcare arrangements, noting the importance of reconciliation of work and family life and recognizing the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child;

10. *Encourages* Member States to support intergenerational solidarity through the provision of social protection schemes, including pensions, and investment in cross-generational facilities, volunteering programmes aimed at youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, mentoring and job-sharing programmes;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to develop and implement policies and national strategies to prevent violence within the family as a whole and thereby enhance the well-being of all of its members;

12. *Recommends* that United Nations agencies and bodies, including the regional commissions, and invites relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and research and academic institutions to, work closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat in a coordinated manner on family-related issues, including the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

13. *Encourages* the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and resources, to participate in the preparatory process of the

twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and to play an active role in facilitating regional cooperation in this regard;

14. *Invites* Member States, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions to support, as appropriate, the preparations for regional meetings in observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

15. *Encourages* Member States to consider, in preparation for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, establishing partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector and academic institutions, as appropriate, in support of family-oriented policy and programme design;

16. *Invites* Member States, United Nations agencies and bodies, civil society organizations and academic institutions to continue providing information on their activities in support of the objectives of, and preparations for, the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and to share good practices and data on family policy development to be included in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.